

Andrew Jackson to Benjamin Smith, August 13, 1812, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO BENJAMIN SMITH.¹

¹ Of the 7th brigade, 2nd division, Tennessee militia. This order gives one an idea of Jackson's sense of discipline for the militia.

Division orders,

Hermitage, August 13 1812.

Nearly two months has elapsed since the date of my orders of the 19th. day of June last, requiring the Generals of each Brigade in my Division, forthwith to furnish a Detachment of two hundred and Eighty men officers included etc etc etc as in said order specified—and (so soon as organized as in said order directed, that compleat muster rolls and inspection returns should be made to me without delay. It is therefore, with extreme pain and regret I have to notice your inattention and neglect in not carrying the said order into full effect. I am now on the 13th. of august without your muster roll and inspection returns. Our goverment is engaged in a Just and necessary war, every military officer ought therefore to be prompt in executing all orders directed to him, without which the service must suffer, and part of our brave soldiers now in the field, may be cut off for the want of reenforcements. The governor of the State cannot fail to notice the delay and calls for a fulfilment of his order. *His order must be obayed*, and no delay in future will be permitted, or the general of Division will not pass it over unnoticed. you will therefore before the 22nd instant, furnish me with muster rolls and inspection returns for the 280 men officers inclusive agreable to my order of the 19th of June last, and make return of rolls for all the

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volunteers of your Brigade that have tendered there servic[e] under the act of congress authorising the president to accept of 50,000 volunteers as heretofore ordered, and on the recpt of this order you will please to acknowledge it.